

# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS VICTORIAN OFFICE

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## THE LABOUR FORCE - VICTORIA

MAY 1979

### INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning the Labour subsection on Melbourne (03) 63 0181, extension 6494.

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### MAIN FEATURES

The Victorian labour force was estimated to comprise 1,743,800 persons in May. This represents a decrease of 12,600 since April, but is 6,500 higher than the figure for May 1978.

An estimated 90,900 persons were unemployed in Victoria in May, comprising 46,600 males and 44,400 females. Of the total unemployed, 28,800 were aged 15 to 19 years, while a further 21,800 were aged 20 to 24 years.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### INTRODUCTION

1. This monthly publication, first published for August 1978, contains Victorian labour force estimates derived from the population survey conducted throughout Australia each month by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Before February 1978 the survey was conducted on a quarterly basis in the months of February, May, August, and November each year.

#### CONDUCT OF ABS POPULATION SURVEY

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 6,500 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about one half of one per cent of the Victorian population. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. The interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and the 12th of each month. The information obtained relates to the week prior to the interview (i.e., the survey week). Because of operational problems arising from the Christmas and New Year holidays, the December 1978 survey commenced a week earlier than usual (i.e., on 4 December), but most interviews were conducted during the following week. The January 1979 survey commenced a week later than usual (i.e., on 15 January).

#### REVISION OF SERIES

3. Since February 1978 survey estimates have been based on population estimates derived from the 1976 Population Census, adjusted for under-enumeration. They were obtained by using a new sample and revised questionnaire. Estimates back to August 1971 have been revised on the new basis and are not comparable with Victorian estimates contained in labour force publications issued by the ABS Canberra Office before February 1978.

#### SCOPE OF SURVEY

4. All persons aged fifteen years and over are included in the survey except the following: members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; non-Australians on tour or holidaying in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

#### DEFINITIONS

5. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e., whether working, looking for work, etc.) during the survey week. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation.

6. Employed persons comprise all those aged 15 years and over who, during the survey week:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission, or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers, and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e., unpaid family helper); or
- (c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks, up to the end of the survey week; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or



- (d) were employers or self-employed persons who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
7. Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and:
- (a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and:
- (i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e., lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
- (ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then; or
- (b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.
8. The labour force comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.
9. Full-time workers are those who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. Part-time workers are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.
10. Persons not in the labour force are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed".

#### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

11. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they, and the movements derived from them, are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

12. Standard errors of survey estimates and month to month movements are as follows:

VICTORIA - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES												
('000)												
Size of estimate	4.5	5.0	6.0	10.0	20.0	50.0	100.0	200.0	300.0	500.0	1,000.0	2,000.0
Standard error	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.7	3.5	4.4	5.0	5.8	7.0	8.4

  

VICTORIA - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF MONTH TO MONTH MOVEMENTS												
('000)												
Size of larger estimates	4.5	5.0	6.0	10.0	20.0	50.0	100.0	200.0	300.0	500.0	1,000.0	2,000.0
Standard error	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.2	4.9	5.6

#### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

13. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications, available on request, which are issued by the ABS Canberra Office:

Unemployment (preliminary estimates) (6201.0) (monthly)  
The labour force (preliminary) (6202.0) (monthly)  
The labour force - Australia (6203.0) (monthly)  
The labour force (6204.0) (annual)  
Civilian employees (preliminary) (6212.0) (monthly)  
Civilian employees (6213.0) (monthly)  
Information paper: questionnaires used in the labour force survey (6232.0) (irregular)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of publications (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

- \* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses
- .. Not applicable
- n.a. Not available

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

W. McLENNAN  
 Deputy Commonwealth Statistician



TABLE 1. VICTORIA- CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (a)

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Month	Employed ( <sup>0</sup> 000)	Unemployed ( <sup>0</sup> 000)	Labour force ( <sup>0</sup> 000)	Not in labour force ( <sup>0</sup> 000)	Civilian population aged 15 years and over ( <sup>0</sup> 000)	Unemployment rate (b) (per cent)	Participation rate (c) (per cent)
MALES							
1976 - May	1,045.6	29.3	1,074.9	258.3	1,333.2	2.7	80.6
1977 - May	1,037.8	43.5	1,081.3	270.0	1,351.3	4.0	80.0
1978 - March	1,043.4	49.3	1,092.7	276.6	1,369.4	4.5	79.8
April	1,053.6	43.3	1,096.9	274.7	1,371.6	3.9	80.0
May	1,045.3	45.6	1,091.0	282.2	1,373.2	4.2	79.4
1979 - March	1,048.1	48.8	1,096.9	296.9	1,393.8	4.4	78.7
April	1,049.4	47.6	1,097.0	298.6	1,395.6	4.3	78.6
May	1,050.5	46.6	1,097.0	299.8	1,396.8	4.2	78.5
MARRIED FEMALES							
1976 - May	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1977 - May	397.6	18.0	415.6	513.5	926.1	4.3	44.9
1978 - March	381.7	22.4	404.1	516.3	920.4	5.5	43.9
April	378.5	23.4	401.9	515.9	917.8	5.8	43.8
May	381.4	26.5	408.0	507.0	915.0	6.5	44.6
1979 - March	387.2	23.4	410.7	515.1	926.8	5.7	44.3
April	383.1	25.3	408.4	514.4	922.8	6.2	44.3
May	382.5	17.5	400.0	524.0	923.9	4.4	43.3
OTHER FEMALES (d)							
1976 - May	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1977 - May	202.2	27.3	229.5	241.2	470.8	11.9	48.8
1978 - March	205.2	32.1	237.2	259.2	496.5	13.5	47.8
April	210.2	30.0	240.3	260.9	501.2	12.5	47.9
May	210.9	27.4	238.3	267.4	505.7	11.5	47.1
1979 - March	223.0	26.3	249.3	265.3	514.6	10.6	48.4
April	223.7	27.3	251.0	269.8	520.8	10.9	48.2
May	219.2	26.9	246.8	274.5	521.2	10.9	47.3
ALL FEMALES							
1976 - May	579.5	35.0	614.5	762.9	1,377.4	5.7	44.6
1977 - May	599.8	45.3	645.1	751.7	1,396.8	7.0	46.2
1978 - March	586.8	54.5	641.3	775.5	1,416.8	8.5	45.3
April	588.7	53.4	642.2	776.8	1,419.0	8.3	45.3
May	592.3	54.0	646.3	774.4	1,420.7	8.4	45.5
1979 - March	610.3	49.7	660.0	781.4	1,441.4	7.5	45.8
April	606.8	52.7	659.4	784.2	1,443.7	8.0	45.7
May	602.4	44.4	646.7	798.4	1,445.1	6.9	44.8
PERSONS							
1976 - May	1,625.1	64.3	1,689.4	1,021.1	2,710.6	3.8	62.3
1977 - May	1,637.7	88.7	1,726.4	1,021.7	2,748.1	5.1	62.8
1978 - March	1,630.2	103.8	1,734.1	1,052.1	2,786.2	6.0	62.2
April	1,642.4	96.7	1,739.1	1,051.5	2,790.6	5.6	62.3
May	1,637.7	99.6	1,737.3	1,056.6	2,793.9	5.7	62.2
1979 - March	1,658.4	98.5	1,756.9	1,078.3	2,835.2	5.6	62.0
April	1,656.2	100.2	1,756.4	1,082.8	2,839.2	5.7	61.9
May	1,652.8	90.2	1,743.8	1,098.2	2,841.9	5.2	61.4

(a) For details of changes in the timing of the survey, the scope of the estimates, and definitions, see explanatory notes on pages 1 and 2.

(b) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

(c) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

(d) Never married, widowed, and divorced.



TABLE 2. VICTORIA - CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a) BY AGE, MAY 1979

Age group (years)	Number ('000)				Participation rate (b) (per cent)			
	Males	Married females	All females	Persons	Males	Married females	All females	Persons
15 - 19	103.6	*	92.1	195.7	59.0	*	54.8	57.0
20 - 24	147.7	46.4	119.1	266.7	90.1	59.4	73.7	81.9
25 - 34	292.1	124.3	162.7	454.8	97.3	48.8	53.3	75.1
35 - 44	221.2	117.4	130.7	351.9	96.3	58.8	58.7	77.8
45 - 54	196.2	77.2	94.8	291.0	92.6	45.3	46.8	70.2
55 - 59	78.9	23.0	30.1	109.0	83.0	29.9	31.3	57.0
60 - 64	39.1	6.3	12.1	51.3	54.0	12.1	15.6	34.1
65 and over	18.2	*	5.2	23.4	12.3	*	2.5	6.5
Total	1,097.0	400.0	646.7	1,743.8	78.5	43.3	44.8	61.4

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. See page 1, paragraph 4.

(b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

TABLE 3. VICTORIA - ASPECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, MAY 1979

Particulars	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (a) (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Total unemployed	46.6	44.4	90.9	4.2	6.9	5.2
Melbourne Statistical Division	34.1	32.7	66.8	4.3	6.7	5.2
Rest of Victoria	12.5	11.6	24.1	4.0	7.4	5.2
Looking for -						
Full-time work	42.6	31.0	73.7	4.1	7.1	5.0
Part-time work	*	13.3	17.3	*	6.4	6.4
Marital status -						
Married	14.4	17.5	31.9	1.9	4.4	2.7
Not married (b)	32.2	26.9	59.0	9.6	10.9	10.2
Age distribution (years) -						
15 - 19	12.9	15.8	28.8	12.5	17.2	14.7
20 - 24	10.2	11.7	21.8	6.9	9.8	8.2
25 and over	23.5	16.9	40.3	2.8	3.9	3.1
Birthplace -						
Born in Australia	31.7	32.5	64.1	4.2	7.1	5.3
Born outside Australia -	14.9	11.9	26.8	4.4	6.3	5.1
Arrived before 1971	10.0	8.4	18.5	3.6	5.7	4.3
" from 1971 to 1979	4.9	*	8.3	8.4	*	8.4
Duration of unemployment (weeks) -						
Under 2	*	5.0	7.4	..	..	..
2 and under 4	4.8	5.0	9.8	..	..	..
4 " " 8	8.6	5.6	14.1	..	..	..
8 " " 13	5.3	*	9.6	..	..	..
13 " " 26	10.2	12.1	22.3	..	..	..
26 " " 52	6.3	5.3	11.6	..	..	..
26 and over	15.2	12.5	27.7	..	..	..
52 " "	9.0	7.2	16.1	..	..	..

## AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)

All unemployed persons	26.6	25.8	26.2	..	..	..
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(a) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

(b) Never married, widowed, and divorced.